

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
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R 140850Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6115
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
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AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
DIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
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USMISSIN USUN NEW ORK
USNMR SHAPE BEL

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USCINCEUR FOR POLAD
USDOCOSOUTH FOR POLAD
BRUSSELS FOR USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, CY
SUBJECT: TURK CYPRIOTS INVESTIGATE POSSIBLE "SABOTEURS"

1. TURKISH CYPRIOT LEGAL AUTHORITIES JULY 11 REMANDED FOR
A FURTHER FOUR DAYS OF CUSTODY AND INVESTIGATION THREE
GREEKS AND ONE GREEK-CYPRIOT ARRESTED JUNE 26 AFTER BEING
DISCOVERED SOUTH OF THE KARPAS PENINSULA NEAR THE VALIA
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FOREST IN A GREEK CYPRIOT REGISTRY "SPEED BOAT" (NAMED
THE "CAPTAIN VASSOS"). POLICE REPORTEDLY DISCOVERED ON BOARD
SCUBA EQUIPMENT AND A MAP WITH "MILITARY MARKINGS," LEADING
TO SUSPICIONS THAT THE INDIVIDUALS WERE INVOLVED IN
SABOTAGE. (THEIR DISCOVERY OCCURRED SHORTLY AFTER AN
UNEXPLAINED FIRE IN THE VALIA FOREST).

2. THE TURKISH CYPRIOT PRESS DENOUNCED THE FOUR AS "SABOTEURS" AND IDENTIFIED THE "CAPTAIN VASSOS" AS IDENTICAL TO BOATS BELONGING TO THE CYPRIOT NATIONAL GUARD. GOC OFFICIALS, IN THE MEANTIME, HAVE TOLD US PRIVATELY THAT THE INDIVIDUALS WERE INVOLVED IN A SMUGGLING OPERATION BETWEEN CYPRUS AND LEBANON. THE DETAINED MEN'S TURKISH CYPRIOT LAWYER CONFIRMED THIS TO US, STATING THAT THE FOUR BECAME SOMEWHAT INEBRIATED EN ROUTE FROM LEBANON, LOST THEIR WAY, RAN OUT OF GAS AND WERE FORCED TO SEND OUT AN SOS.

3. GOC OFFICIALS HAVE COMPLAINED ABOUT THE CONTINUING DETENTION OF THE FOUR AND STATED THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS APPEALING TO INTERNATIONAL AUTHORITIES ON THE GROUNDS THAT THE "HUMAN RIGHTS" OF THE INDIVIDUALS ARE BEING DENIED. AT THE SAME TIME, GOC FONMIN CHRISTOPHIDES HAS TOLD US THAT GOC'S COMPLAINTS HAVE BEEN MUTED AND FOR THE RECORD GIVEN THE SMUGGLING HISTORIES OF THOSE ARRESTED. ON THE OTHER HAND, BOTH TURK CYPRIOTS AND TURKISH EMBASSY OFFICIALS EVINCE BELIEF THAT THE FOUR WERE ENGAGED IN SOME SORT OF OPERATION AGAINST THE TFSC, DESIGNED TO EITHER TEST TFSC DEFENSES OR TO PROVOKEOKE INTERCOMMUNAL DISTURBANCES PRIOR TO THE UNGA CYPRUS DEBATE.

4. UNFICYP OFFICIALS REPORT THAT THE GOC ASKED THEM TO VISIT THE FOUR PERSONS. UNFICYP REQUESTS HAVE BEEN REFUSED BY THE TURKISH CYPRIOTS ON THE GROUNDS THAT THE OFFENSE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF SABOTAGE IS SO SERIOUS.

5. COMMENT: THE ISSUE PROMISES TO CONTINUE AS ANOTHER BONE OF CONTENTION BETWEEN THE TWO COMMUNITIES, PARTICULARLY IF, AS SEEMS LIKELY, THE TFSC DECIDES TO PROSECUTE THE FOUR ON GROUNDS OF SABOTAGE. THE EPISODE DEMONSTRATES THE CONTINUING HIGH LEVEL OF REFLEXIVE PARANOIA HERE.
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 14-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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